

In the Abstract:

Please replace the Abstract beginning on page 14, line 3 with the following Abstract:

A method and system for localizing and resolving a fault in a cluster environment. The cluster (100) is configured with at least one multi-homed node (110), and at least one gateway (140) for each network interface (112, 114). Heartbeat messages are sent between peer nodes and the gateway in predefined periodic intervals (202). In the event of loss of a heartbeat message (204) by any node or gateway, an ICMP echo is issued to each node and gateway in the cluster for each network interface (206). If neither a node loss nor not a network loss is validated in response to the ICMP echo, an application level ping is issued (224) to determine if the fault associated with the absence of the heartbeat message is a transient error condition (228) or an application software fault (230).